Summer Docent Ice Cream Socials

Our first ice cream social was held on August 16th in Bar-
tlesville at the home of David and Betty Turner. We all en-
joyed a cool evening (yes, be-
lieve it or not it was very
pleasant outside that night!),
good company, tasty snacks,
and a lovely water garden.
Many thanks to the Turners for
their hospitality. The next ice
cream social will be held in
Ponca City. See below for de-
tails and please RSVP if you
plan to attend!!

Ponca City Ice Cream Social
Host: Maxine Manering
When: Sept. 20, 2001, 7pm
Where: 11 Sherman Lane
Please RSVP soon to Kim or
Belinda at (918) 585-1117. If
you would like to bring ice
cream, cookies or toppings, let
us know when you RSVP.

I have had no offers for a site
for a Tulsa ice cream social so
at present, none is planned.

July 2001 Visitation
from George Meyers

July visitation continued the
downward trend of the last
seven years. 1,100 visitors
signed-in, 10.6% less that July
2000. We had 40 visitors from
14 other countries with Ger-
many (11), England (8), and
Hungary (4) heading the list.
New countries this month were
Hungary, China (with 3 in-
cluding 2 from Hong Kong),
Pakistan and Singapore. We
had 453 visitors from 40 other
states with Texas (73), Kansas
(42), California (29), Florida
(27), Illinois (26), and Mis-
soiuri heading the list. We had
605 from Oklahoma and 2
from Guam. 31 of the foreign
visitors were first-timers,
along with 340 of out-of-state
visitors and 284 Oklahomans.
Year to date, we have had visi-
tors from 49 states, Washin-
ton D.C., 3 U.S. possessions
and 41 other countries. 59.7% of
the visitors were first-
timers, 77% of foreign visitors,
75% of visitors from other
states, and 46.9% of Oklaho-
mans. Many visitors continue
to return to the Prairie for a
second and third time.
Visitors were quite evenly
spread over the week, with
Tuesday being the slowest day.

As usual, mid day was the
most popular time to visit
(80% visit between 9:30 and
3:30pm). One Saturday saw
74 visitors that signed in and
one Monday had 72 visitors.
A sampling of visitor com-
ments included: "Spiritual!"
"Hard to find such sweeping
vistas with nary a manmade
thing in sight." From Con-
necticut, a truth "Always grant
right of way to crossing bis-
on." A visitor from Hong
Kong wrote in Chinese,
"Beautiful, natural and peace-
ful-quiet." (Translation cour-
tesy of Stu Marshall) A Span-
ish visitor wrote, "thanks for
helping reproduction of the
bisons." "After city living, vast
openness is amazing." A
Pakistani, "It smell very
good." Other comments in-
cluded, "really well done, great
people" "Camo the oil tanks
and put utilities underground." Many people remarked "beau-
tiful, great, or wonderful" and
one with no further explana-
tion wrote, "nearly killed by a
bull." (yikes!)
Gift Shop
Sales Summary
6,621.88  July 2001
7,861.83  July 2000
-1,239.95  Decrease in Sales

39,388.92  2001 Year to Date
34,794.78  2000 Year to Date
4,594.14  Increase in Sales

Adopt-A-Bison Sales
Adopting these big brown critters continues to be popular. At the end of our 2001 fiscal year the program has brought in over $81,000.00 to the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve and the bison herd!

Nickel Preserve Info
Events Set for Volunteer Recruitment
Here’s one last and late reminder of the upcoming events to begin the recruitment of docents for the Nickel Preserve. In early September, several public events will be held to showcase the Nickel Preserve northeast of Tahlequah and to recruit volunteer trail guides. Dates are: Sept. 4 at Tahlequah Public Library (6:30-8 p.m.), Sept. 5 at Muskogee Public Library (7 - 8:30), Sept. 6 at Hardesty Library in Tulsa, (7-8:30 p.m.) If you would like to help with refreshments or as a greeter at any of these events, please contact Mary Coley at 585-1117.

OK Chapter Calendar
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<th>September</th>
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<td>20 Ponca City Ice Cream Social</td>
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<td>22 Nickel trail guide training</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>8 Fall Wildflower ID session</td>
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<td>13 Wild Spirits (OKC fundraiser)</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>2, 3 Fishing Tournament</td>
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<td>14 Docent Roundup Day</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>8 Docent Recognition Dinner</td>
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Bloomin’ News
Here’s a quick list of what you and visitors can expect to see blooming at the Prairie: Goldenrod, Big Bluestem, Indiangrass, and other warm season grasses, Ragweed (unfortunately), Asters, Late Boneset or Joe Pye Weed, Cardinal Flower, and Blue Sage.

TGP Plant Brochure
Just a reminder that there is a detailed plant brochure available for visitors. Don’t forget to offer this to folks when they visit the gift shop either before or after they walk the trail or just drive around. You might be nicely surprised by the number of people who are interested in the plant life at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve.

Regular Wildflower ID Sessions
From the input I have received from many of you I will begin scheduling regular wildflower/plant ID sessions. The fall session will be October Monday, October 8th. Let’s meet at the gift shop at 9:30am. I plan on concentrating on the fall grasses, their characteristics, and some basic terminology. We will also look at any flowers we can find. I also hope to hold a winter session. More on that in upcoming newsletters. Please RSVP to Kim by October 1st for the fall session at (918) 585-1117 or at kshannon@tnc.org.

Andropogon gerardii
Big Bluestem

Prairie Road Crew
Another PRC clean up date is set for September 8th but the regular leader of the group, Dick Baker, will be out of town. So, do other members of the PRC want to coordinate efforts for Saturday, September 8th? Please call Kim ASAP if you want to help!
The Docent News

Trail Guides Needed!!

The last few days of August have brought a flurry of interest from school groups regarding field trips to the Tallgrass Prairie. I need to recruit trail guides for the following dates.

Friday, September 21, 2001: 2 guides needed

Tuesday, September 25, 2001: 8 guides needed

Oct. 2, 4, 9, & 11: 5-6 guides needed for each day!

If you are able to work one or more of these days please call (918-585-117) or email (kshannon@mc.org) Kim ASAP. I will then forward more information to you regarding times and activities for each group.

As always, your assistance and dedication is greatly appreciated!

Prairie News

- Roundup will begin this year a bit later than previous years. Bob and the cowboys will begin working at the corrals in mid November.
- A controlled burn was done in early August and more late summer burns are planned.

Mark your calendars for this year’s Docent Recognition Dinner

This year’s docent recognition event will be taking place on the evening of Saturday, December 8, 2001. The event will be held at the new Hampton Inn between Tulsa and Sand Springs. The evening’s activities will include dinner and award presentations. For those interested, the hotel will offer a special rate to docents who wish to stay overnight. Amenities of the hotel include an indoor pool, sauna, and hot tub, complimentary continental breakfast, small fridge in each room, cable TV, and more. You can check out this new facility via a virtual hotel tour at www.showhotel.com/hamptoninn/7412701.

Specific information will be in an upcoming edition of the Docent News and in your invitations.

Docent Roundup Day

This year’s Docent Roundup Day is scheduled for Wednesday, November 14, 2001! Watch for more information in the October issue of the docent newsletter!
# September 2001

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4142 E. 48th St.  
Tulsa OK 74135  
Phone: 918 – 748-9497  
(Eat your name and phone number or the answering machine)  
E-Mail: bbates@webzone.net  
Weekends call - Ann Whitehorn 918-287-4238  
Shift Hours: 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.  
(Stay until 5 if you can)
# October 2001

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